



DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *Keith Abernathy*



I am proud to have been elected the Commander of the Department of France for the 2015 -2016 Year. We had a very good Convention Sponsored by Kaiserslautern Post GR01 and things went well. There could have been more in attendance, but, it still was a good Convention. I would like to Thank National Vice Commander Doug Haggan for taking time to come down and attend the Convention and swear me in as Commander.

I want you all to know that this Department does not belong to me! I've been elected to lead it through the coming year. I need your help to do that. At present this Department is in the basement as far as membership is concerned. We have to turn that around and become number 1 again. That should be our highest priority. We can do that by conducting Membership drives.

If your post would like to do a membership drive and you would like to have Department representation, let us know will gladly come and help out. I would like to see SAL membership increase also. It's not hard to do. I am going to sign my Son and Grandsons up. That's 5 new members, just like that. Your new Vice Commanders are there to help you with any problems that you may encounter. Don't hesitate to use us at any time. I would like to visit you Post, I will not visit without an invite from the Post. I would only be there as a guest not to take over your meeting. In closing, again I thank you for giving me the opportunity to lead this Department. And I say again, give the Department your support. Help us become number 1 again.

Keith Abernathy / Department Commander

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE 91ST CONVENTION 18 – 21 JUNE 2015







DEPARTMENT OFFICERS - 2016 MEMBERSHIP YEAR

COMMANDER Keith Abernathy GR79 keithabernathy1942@yahoo.com	ADJUTANT Maxwell Rice GR79 colwichboy@yahoo.com	NECMAN John Miller GR1982 miller-roth@t-online.de	ALT. NECMAN Ronald Moore GR05 gypsy_moore@yahoo.de
VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE Joe D. Brown GR79 Joedan.pascall@googlemail.com GR07 GR20 CH01 DK01 NL01 TH00(Thailand) Post9999 & New Post Development	VICE COMMANDER Lyndon Hudson FR01 lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com GR03 GR06 GR09 GR13 GR79 BE02	VICE COMMANDER Quincy Foster GR05 achange@qcfoster.com GR01 GR02 GR14 FR01 IR01 FR05 IR63	VICE COMMANDER John Shanahan IR63 jhshanahan@gmail.com IR02 IR03 IT01 PO01 GC01 SP292
VICE COMMANDER Casby Logan GR07 casbyj@hotmail.com GR05 GR30 GR45 GR1982	CHAPLAIN Jimmie Dale GR07 jimmiedale.87@gmail.com	HISTORIAN Michael Keating IR02 michael.keating@t-online.de	FINANCE OFFICER Gary Miller GR06 billsfan_gary@hotmail.com
SERVICE OFFICER Paul Claybough GR1982	JUDGE ADVOCATE James M. Settle GR42 james.settle@kabelbw.de		SERGEANT-AT-ARMS Christopher Buchanan GR1982 christoperbuch@hotmail.com



From the Editor...

Please send all input for the Department Newsletter to my email address at the latest three days prior to the end of the month. If possible, please use Word document format. Constructive suggestions to improve the Newsletter are also welcome.

If you want to stay informed on what is happening with **YOUR** Department you can also visit the following sites,
www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org / www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance / www.legion.org/fodpal

Thank You. David N. Greaux / davidgreaux@t-online.de

Boys State, Boys Nation transform lives



The program often described as “a week that shapes a lifetime” has had a remarkable influence on this country.

By National Commander Michael D. Helm - July 1, 2015

- See more at: <http://www.legion.org/magazine/228293/boys-state-boys-nation-transform-lives#sthash.FAxQ48od.dpuf>

Former President Bill Clinton and Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker might not agree on many issues, but they share one position that transcends party politics: an admiration for The American Legion’s Boys Nation program.

Walker, who attended Badger Boys State and advanced to Boys Nation in 1985, called the experience “transformational.” His visit to Washington 30 years ago made an impression that remains with him today.

“Seeing those veterans, being at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, being at Arlington, being on the Mall – doing all the different things we did as part of the week of Boys Nation – reinforced to me more than just government and politics, which is obviously part of it, but really the public service,” Walker recently told The American Legion. “Seeing these veterans who were so committed to making sure that patriotism lived on to the next generation was a tremendous inspiration.”

Clinton had a similar experience in 1963. “That week had a profound impact on me,” the 42nd president told the 2013 Boys Nation session. “I was also deeply inspired to pursue life in public service. Of course, I couldn’t know then what jobs I’d have or when I would be elected or what I would be elected to or whether I would even be elected. I did know that I wanted to spend my life being of service.”

Boys Nation is more than a training ground for future politicians. Other distinguished program alumni include Michael Jordan, Jon Bon Jovi, Bruce Springsteen, Tom Brokaw, Garth Brooks, Neil Armstrong, James Gandolfini, Phil Jackson and Robert Griffin III.

Indeed, the program often described as “a week that shapes a lifetime” has had a remarkable influence on this country since two Illinois Legionnaires established the first Boys State in 1935.

Originally created as a patriotic alternative to the socialism-inspired Young Pioneer Camps of the 1930s, Hayes Kennedy and Harold Card envisioned an environment for young men that would educate them on the importance of our two-party system of government.

That first class of 217 high school boys gathered at the Illinois State Fairgrounds in Springfield to learn how to operate a city, county and state government. They conducted elections and passed laws. In short, they learned the value of good citizenship.

Before long, the program attracted national interest and spread throughout other departments in The American Legion. Today 49 of 50 states operate Boys State programs. The American Legion Auxiliary runs similar Girls State and Girls Nation programs to instill patriotism and leadership in young women. These have a list of impressive graduates, too, including Janet Napolitano, Jane Pauley and Ann Richards.

As national commander, I will have the privilege of meeting the Boys Nation class of 2015 this month. While these young men will no doubt have memorable experiences as they meet members of Congress and tour our nation’s capital, it is not what Boys Nation does for its participants that is most exciting. Rather, it is knowing that we’re part of the forging of the next generation of American leaders.



Doug Haggan... National Vice Commander/ FODPAL Secretary/ Past Department of France Commander



THE GREAT NORTHEAST



MEMBERSHIP

A couple of weeks ago I ask for every Department in the Northeast to dig deep and for each Department to shoot for 95% membership to close the years out. Will as of this today we have two Departments at 95% and Delaware is at 94%, however they made a transmittal that should put them close to 96% on the next membership report.

Now I am asking the remaining 9 Departments to please look at your membership rolls and see who we missed, there has to be some members still out there that have not renewed, let's get them and get the Northeast Region out of the basement.

We have done so many good things this year in the region and we shouldn't let membership drag us down. **I KNOW WE CAN MAKE IT OUT OF THE BASEMENT.**

CONSOLIDATED POSTS REPORTS

I want to remind you that Consolidated Post Reports are coming due. If you have Posts that haven't reported yet please call them and remind them that the CPR is due. 90% reporting for the Region is within reach.

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANTS

Department Adjutants please forward me your 2015 – 2016 Officers Roster, I want to help next year's Northeast Region National Vice Commander out.

PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDER *James Settle*



My Fellow Legionaries

AS we all know the Department of France conducted its 91st Convention in Ludwigshafen 18-21 June 2015. My congratulations to those newly elected and appointed officers for MY 2016, and my heartfelt thanks to those officers that supported the Department over the last year. I

am positive that all of you will continue to move the Department forward, and continue to strive to improve our Department over the next year.

For those that attended the convention we were surprised on the 20th of June when Past Department Commander, and our current National Vice Commander Doug Haggan showed up and participated in our convention and elections, it was a welcomed surprise on my part, and I am sure of the others present. Thanks once again Doug for all you have done for us and the American Legion.

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP. I cannot stress membership enough. It is the bloodline of our

organization. It enables us to perform our missions to the Veterans and their Families, and supports not only National Programs but ours also. While you are out there recruiting, new members do not forget your current members, get them to renew in a timely manner. If you have any questions on membership do not hesitate to contact the Membership Chairman Comrade Brown, at joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com. He can answer your questions and resolve any problems you are having, with membership.

In closing, again congratulations to the new officers of the Department of France, and my many thanks to all of you for your service and continued service to the Department of France. Please continue to keep those in harm's way and their families, in your thoughts and prayers also.

Phone: 07138-67359 / james.settle@kabelbw.de

The Department Web Page is:

www.AmerLegionDeptFrance.org

The department has a Face Book page at the following

www.Facebook.com/ALDeptFrance.

Please visit and like this page. Thanks



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER AT LARGE / MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN Joe D. Brown



My fellow Legionnaires,
Auxiliary, and S.A.L.
Members,

The 91st Annual Convention was great success, with Post GR01 hosting and caps off to Commander John Purdy and the whole GR 01 team for a job well doing. The National Vice Commander came to Department Of France Convention, Doug Haggan, also Past Department Commander of France and Past Commander GR05, it was honor to have him here. First off, let me congratulate all of the newly elected Department Officers, I wish all of you the best of luck in all that you do. During the Department Convention, there was much talk about the lack of communication within the Department. I challenge all of us to do better job in this area, so that we can better support and guide the Posts, and accomplish the Department missions. We need to support each other, if you need help, just ask, I am sure with the wealth of knowledge we have within this Department someone is capable, and willing to help you.

This past membership year 2015, we were number 55 of 55 Department in regards to membership standings. So for 2016, we need to start now on Membership recruiting and renewals, if you need help or want to do a membership drive, just let me know, I will be there to help. Remember this year the 2016 the Oratorical contest will be in Belgium, so start communicating with the schools now, it would be nice to go to Belgium with 6-7 contestants.

We must remember the ideals of what the American Legion stands for, justice, freedom

and democracy. We are here to support our veterans, their families, our communities and the care of our veterans through the programs set out at the National Level. Many of our Posts need to be more involved with these programs, I would strive to make that happen. All Post Commanders need to properly display your POW-MIA Table, American Flag and your Post Legion Banner at all your meetings.

If you have a Legionaries in your Post that are ill, in the Hospital or Deceased, please e-mail the Department Adjutant and the Department Chaplain with their information.

I will like to thank all the Posts that made 100% for 2015 - GR01, GR02, GR05, GR06, GR09, GR13, GR14, GR30, GR42, GR 79, BE02 and DK01.

The Department has two temporary charters, Thailand TH01 and IRELAND IR01 that will be sent to National for approval.

The Department Convention is over and there is a lot of work to be done. I will begin with requesting the reports that were not turned in to the Department Adjutant get sent to him ASAP.

As always, remember if you need to contact me I am just an E-mail away joedan.pascal1@googlemail.com, M-0170-1888034. In closing, please keep those in harm's way and their families, not only in your thoughts but your prayers as well.

*Membership Chairman / VCAL
Charlie Brown*

DEPARTMENT ALT NECMAN *Ronald Moore*



Thank you for your support at the 2015 Department of France Convention held at Ludwigshafen, Germany. A heartfelt thank you to the outgoing officers and my promise of support goes to the incoming officers. As alternate

National Executive Committeeman, I have an important job in that I represent NECman John Miller when he can't be somewhere. He is teaching me a lot about my new duties and responsibilities because he has a lot of knowledge and personal contacts that he has developed and used in the Department's favor over the years. I will be attending the National Convention under his leadership and expect to learn through his teaching. It certainly helps that I attended the National Conventions since 2006, but there is a lot that goes on behind the curtains that he knows about.

I thought I knew a lot about The American Legion, but while establishing what I need to know for my new position, I found out how much I had forgotten or maybe didn't actually know. My suggestion to every member of The American Legion Family is to take the online course of The American Legion Extension Institute. I'm refreshing my knowledge through the course. Another thing is to know your National, Department/Detachment and Post/Squadron/Unit/Chapter Constitution and Bylaws. Be able to recite your respective Preamble to the

American Legion Family Constitution you are a member of. Don't cheat, do it without paper help.

The National pro-capita for Legion membership dues is set for a \$5 yearly increase. This would be the best time to make a Paid Up For Life membership drive to your members. No further increase in dues for life, always on time and no late notices. In addition, the Post's portion of dues remains at the level when the PUFL membership was paid. So if you have \$10 Post portion of dues right now, you will continue to receive that portion no matter what changes come about in the future. It is an easy way of ensuring Post cash flow each year and a no increase in dues for the member.

How much sensitive information do you post on websites or send to the "cloud"? Are you putting your family, friends and comrades at risk through pictures or personal information in social media? Do you know when the latest terrorist attacks took place? Don't be a target or expose yourself unnecessarily.

100th American Legion Anniversary is coming up soon (time is relative). Do you know who is considered to be the "Father of The American Legion"?
For God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore, American Legion
Department of France alternate NEC
SAL Detachment of France NEC-elect (Aug. 30 2015-2017)
Mobile: 0049-(0)172-7417812
Email: gypsy_moore@yahoo.de

Past Chaplain's Corner

It has been an honor and great pleasure to have served you as Department Chaplain and Detachment of France Chaplain this past year. You made it a calling and not a job. Thank you for your support over the past few years.

Our new Department of France Chaplain for 2015-16 is Comrade Jimmie Dale. His email address is: jimmiedale.87@gmail.com

Our new Sons of The American Legion Detachment of France Chaplain is Comrade James Dennis. His email address is: Postgr30@yahoo.com

Please be sure to inform your Department Vice Commander, Department Commander and Department Adjutant of illnesses and PEL status. In addition, sick comrades and family members should be indicated to the Department Chaplain by the 25th of each month because the list will be cleared from the previous month unless the chaplain is advised that the sick status still exists.

I wish all of our American Legion Family success and happiness for 2015-16 and ask that God bless you in, and for, your endeavors with The American Legion.
Service to God and Country!

Rev. Ronald Moore

Department of France American Legion Riders (ALR) and ALPE Messenger Service

Congratulations to the newly formed GR14 American Legion Riders Chapter. That brings the Department up to a total of 8 chapters operating out of Posts under the jurisdiction of the Department of France. So now we have chapters at BE02, CH01, GR01, GR05, GR07, GR14, GR79 and GR1982. There was a time when we had over 50 Riders at GR07 as the only ALR Chapter operating within the Post jurisdiction of the Department of France, but now we are back up to over 60 Riders and growing.

This month I will be coordinating donation pickups for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. I will be heading to the States at the beginning of August to get ready for the 10th Annual Legacy Run. GR1982 Messenger John Miller will be bringing Post GR1982's donations to the National Convention. GR14 and GR79 have requested pickups. I received a \$500 check for the Legacy Scholarship Fund from GR09, so they lead as the Post with the largest donation to date. GR1982 had that honor last year, so I expect some healthy competition in collecting donations for the education of the poor children who have lost a parent since 9/11/2001. I thank you for your efforts on their behalf.

I had asked all of the Riders to at least sign up as supporters of the 2015 Legacy Run if they couldn't ride with me this year. For the minimum \$25 donation, the supporter receives the Rider packet, including the 2015 patch. I hope

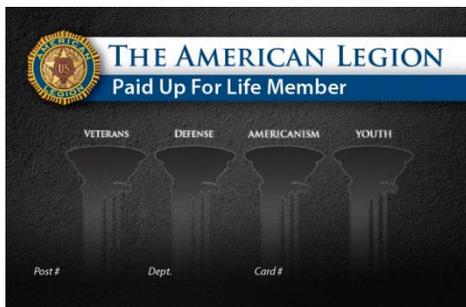
to see a lot of Riders wearing the patch on their vests, since the Legacy Scholarship Fund is the reason for our existence. I was informed by a Rider that he couldn't register with a foreign address because the form was not set up for it. If you don't have an APO box (where you might have to use New York as the state), print the form and fill it out by hand. Then just send it by fax or scan and send it by email.

So, Way Stations and Messengers, please continue your efforts in collecting donations for this worthy cause.

In view of the continued danger from attacks by the IS, I can only warn service personnel and groups of Riders outside of the United States, not to fly flags from their motorcycles or wear Rider vests outside of a military installation. Most installations require safety vests, so just wear that over your Rider vest. I know there will be some discontent with my statement, but if you're sufficiently armed at all times to eliminate any attackers before they do harm to you or a fellow Rider, then you can disregard my suggestion. If not, be smart, be safe and protect your comrade.

Thank you for your service and support. Ride safe and ride with God as your copilot.

Ron "Gypsy" Moore, AL Rider Director and Chief Messenger



Paid Up For Life

The Paid Up For Life (PUFL) membership campaign has been a resounding success. At one day short of its anniversary, 19,605 American Legion members elected to become Paid Up For Life. In just the last three months, 3,270 members converted their annual dues paying memberships into a PUFL membership.

Plans for this year will focus on signing up the newest members along with a good mix of emails and direct mail solicitations. Various discounts for payment in full at time of application and extra giveaways will continue to be used.

For more information regarding the program please visit www.legion.org/pufl or call customer service at (800) 433-3318.



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER *John Shanahan*

With the 2015 Department convention now part of the history books, I'd like to thank the Delegates for the trust they've placed in me to serve as a Department vice commander for 2015-2016.

As a candidate for this position, I proposed to do four things during my term of office: (1.) work to improve and support Post administration and member training; (2.) develop and pilot a Department-wide training program that could be implemented at our quarterly meetings and annual convention; (3.) help Post commanders to plan and execute member recruiting programs, especially focusing on social media; and (4.) develop and extend our Americanism program, especially by engaging Legion members to represent the United States at ceremonial events throughout their local areas as we celebrate the centenary of World War One and approach the centenary of our own founding in 1919. I encourage each member to offer their own thoughts on this programme and to join me in working towards these goals.

My Post assignments for this year are as follows:
Ireland – Posts IR-02 and IR-03; Italy – Post IT-01;

Portugal – Post PO-01; Greece – Post GC-01; and Spain – Post SP-292. My specific work task for each of these Posts include getting to know the leadership and members of the Posts; understanding the challenges that they face, especially with respect to membership and retention, and assisting them with recruitment and training. My Irish Post meetings are set to take place in July and I'll be scheduling meetings with the other Posts in the coming months. I respectfully request that all Post commanders on my list provide me with contact details, a copy of your newsletter and your meeting dates and locations for the rest of this year.

I continue to be reminded of the importance of our core mission: service to fellow veterans. PTSD and traumatic brain injury are the "signature" wounds of the recent U.S. engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan and we need to do all that we can to ensure that we have an effective programme to reach out to men and women affected by these and other injuries and to bring them into the fold of the Legion family. I look forward to the honour of working with each of you to accomplish that. I look forward as well to hearing from you and to the pleasure of meeting you in person. For God and Country, *John*

New Post IR-01 Approved for Dublin, Ireland

At its meeting for the 4th DEC for 2014-2015, the Department Executive Committee approved formation of a new Post for Dublin, Ireland. Post IR-01 organizers submitted their charter application with the names of 30 new members signed on to the new Post. The charter application will go forward now to the National Executive Committee for final approval action and for issuance of the new charter.



Post IR-01 will meet at its new post home, the Malahide Yacht Club on the seacoast just above Dublin City, with a regular schedule to be announced just as soon as the new charter is in hand and the organizational details complete. Joining the new members in the Post will be nine transfer members who will come aboard as part of the organizing effort. While centred in Dublin, Ireland, the new Post will draw on members from both Ireland and all over the United States who lead active lifestyles and wish to engage with the Post and the Legion through electronic communication such as Skype and WebEx. Ireland's robust IT infrastructure is well-situated to support this new technology, as Dublin is home to European operations for Google, Facebook, Intel, Yahoo, PayPal and a host of other companies in the tech sector.

For information on the new Post and to follow its operations, contact Post organizing chairman John Shanahan (jhshanahan@gmail.com) or see the Post in action at <https://www.facebook.com/AmLegionIreland>

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER Quincy Foster



Greetings to the Department of France Legion Family

I would like to thank you for electing me to serve as Vice Commander for 2015-2016. I will do my best to uphold this office.

As a Department of France Vice Commander, I have been assigned the following posts: Kaiserslautern Post GR01, Ramstein Post GR02, Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14, Paris Post FR01, Riviera Post FR05, John F. Kennedy Post IR63 and Dublin Post IR01.

I am again looking forward to working with all the post Commanders their officers and all the Legionnaires, Auxiliaries and Son of the American Legion, Legion Riders and all the Legion Family.

I still maintain a can do attitude even though it may be difficult at times we can make it happen. If I can help you in any way possible please to not hesitate to give me a call and I also ask for your help for the good of the legion.

My congratulations go out to all the past, new and re-elected officers of the Dept. of France.

I would like to thank Kaiserslautern Post GR01 for hosting the 91st Annual Department Convention. You all did a GREAT job and it really went well. THANKS.

Don't forget the 4th of July is upon us so Happy 4th of July to all Legionnaires and their families.

May God Bless you all!

Mobile: 049-01783989509 / Email: Achange@qcfoster.com

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER Lyndon Hudson



Comrades,

The sun has set on the annual Department Convention and I'm extremely honored to have been elected as a Department of France Vice Commander with purview for the following Posts: BE02, GR03, GR06, GR09, GR13 and GR79.

I'd like to thank those Posts that were proactive in getting their meeting schedules and upcoming events to me, however, I invite those that haven't to please do so.

In the interim I've been invited to and will attend the Adopter Appreciation Ceremony at Flanders Field American Cemetery hosted by BE02. The ceremony starts at 11hr on 22 August 2015 followed by an American BBQ with an assortment of exhibitions at Park Stadionvijvers, Zuiderlaan, Waregem, Belgium. If anyone is interested in attending and would like to make a reservation for the BBQ, the cost is 15€.

R.S.V.P to: adopt.a.grave.flandersfield@gmail.com

A little background information on me: I've been an American Legion member for approximately 11 years, most of which I was a member of my hometown Post 0159, Chincoteague, Virginia, having transferred to FR01 last year. I served 21 years in the Army and retired as a Sergeant First Class. I'm married, have a son, daughter and 6 grandchildren.

I look forward to getting out to each post and assisting in any way I can.

Thank you,
+49(0)16097072097 / lyndonandmargaret@yahoo.com

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN *Jimmie Dale*



As you already know I am new to working with the American Legion I've been a member since 2012 I guess since that is the only membership card I can find. I want to start with a little background on me. I was born and raised in Scooba

Mississippi I join the Mississippi national guard my senior year of high school in 1981. I join the active army 1 June 1983 and retired 31 March 2011 for a total of almost 28 years. I was involved in two deployments Bosnia for one year in 1996 and I spent 6 months in Afghanistan in 2009.

I've lived here in Germany 17 and half years while in the military and another 4 years as a civilian. I currently work at the Ramstien Commissary as a store worker on the night shift, I've been working with DeCA for the past four years.

I was elected Post Commander for GR07 this year and I also received the honor of being elected President of the PCC.

The only information I have received about sick or deaths in the American Legion family is the passing of Claudius Jackson from Post GR14 who passed away 15 Jun 2015 and Bob Burdette Past Post Cdr GR13 passed away 22 June 2015. At current time I have no information on funeral arrangement or next of kind.

I still have a lot to learn and I'm willing to do the best I can to support this great organization. I took a selection from the living bible Psalms 1: Oh, the joys of those who do not follow evil men's advise who do not hang around with sinners, scoffing at the things of God: But they delight in doing everything God wants them to.

I want to make sure my contact information is available to all who needs assistance:

Jimmie Dale
Department Chaplin
Cell: 0174-243-0104
Hm: 06204-980-4334
Email: jimmiedale.87@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT FINANCE OFFICER *Gary Miller*



All DEPT officers and committee chairmen. For those individuals that have a budget from Department, You need to ensure that you have an American Bank account. This includes the Commander On down (VCAL, Adjutant, etc). Also, be sure to email The adjutant and the finance officer, with any address Changes for your post. You can expect a check from Dept for online renewals every quarter, (October, January, April and July).

M-F 0800-1500 - 0711-680-4500, 1800 till 2100 - 0711-674-8370/GARY.D.MILLER2.CTR@MAIL.MIL or billsfan_gary@hotmail.com

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES – Finance

14 August 2014

1. MEMORANDUM FOR EXPENSES FOR AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE OFFICERS, POSTS AND/OR OTHER LEGIONNAIRES THAT ARE LISTED ON EACH YEARS BUDGET.
2. MONEY AMOUNTS CAN VARY FROM YEAR TO YEAR IAW THE APPROVED YEARLY BUDGET.
3. RE-IMBURSABLE EXPENSES – TRAVEL, LODGING, MEALS – MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY RECEIPTS.
 - A. VISITS TO OTHERS POSTS
 - B. LEGION CEREMONIES (MEMORIAL DAY, ST. AVOLD, VETERANS DAY, ORATORICAL ETC)
 - C. NATIONAL CONVENTION (NON-CALL IN)-THOSE OFFICERS THAT HAVE A BUDGET.
 - D. NATIONAL COMMANDER’S VISIT (NECMAN, COMMANDER, VCAL, DRIVERS).
 - E. PURCHASE OF APPROVED SUPPLIES.
 - F. OTHER BUDGETED ITEMS (POSTAGE).
 - G. OTHER ITEMS VOTED AND APPROVED AT A DEPT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (DEC) MEETING.
4. ALLOWANCES ARE TO BE PAID TO COMMANDER, ADJUTANT AND FINANCE IAW WITH THE CURRENT YEAR BUDGET.
5. EXPENSES THAT ARE NOT RE-IMBURSABLE
 - A. TRAVEL COSTS TO A DEC MEETING.
 - B. TRAVEL COSTS TO ATTEND THE DEPARTMENT CONVENTION.
 - C. TRAVEL COSTS TO NATIONAL THAT RESULT IN A ‘CALL-IN’. THOSE TRAVEL COSTS THAT NATIONAL PAYS FOR.
6. MEMBERSHIP TRANSMITTALS TO DEPARTMENT SHALL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN ON A MONTHLY BASIS. THE TRANSMITTALS WILL BE SENT BY MAIL AND AN ELECTRONIC COPY SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN.
 - A. EACH MEMBER TRANSMITTED TO DEPT WILL INCLUDE THE DEPT PER-CAPITA AMOUNT (CURRENTLY \$19.50 PER MEMBER). OF WHICH \$13.50 WILL BE SENT TO NATIONAL FOR EACH MEMBER AND \$6.00 FOR THE DEPT.
7. ONLINE RENEWALS - THE FINANCE OFFICER WILL RECORD ALL ONLINE RENEWALS ON THE 1ST AND THE 16TH OF EACH MONTH. AN EXCEL SPREADSHEET WILL BE MAINTAINED, RECORDING THE NUMBER OF RENEWALS FOR EACH POST AND THE PER-CAPITA MONEY OWED TO THE POSTS FOR EACH RENEWAL FOR THE STATED TIMES FRAMES. THE ONLINE RENEWAL AMOUNTS FOR THE PER-CAPITA PER POST WILL BE CALCULATED AND A CHECK WILL BE SENT FROM DEPT TO EACH POST AT THE END OF EACH QUARTER OF THE CURRENT MEMBERSHIP YEAR. FOR EXAMPLE:
 - A. Post GR06 annual dues are \$30.00 per year.
 - B. Online renewals for the period of 1 July-30 September totaled 50 members.
 - C. \$13.50 of the \$30.00 goes right to National. National will send Dept. a check for \$825.00 (\$16.50 x 50 members). Of that \$825.00 - \$300.00 will be kept by Dept. (\$6.00 for Dept. per-capita for each member x 50). \$825.00 - \$300.00 = \$525.00 check to be sent to Post 6. So for each member renewed online at \$30.00 - \$19.50 is kept by National and the Dept. (\$13.50 for National and \$6.00 for Dept.). The \$30.00 - \$19.50 = \$10.50 owed to Post 6 for each online renewal.

DETACHMENT OF FRANCE



Squadrons: GR01, BE02, GR06, GR07, GR14, GR42, GR79, CH01



Lee Preston

Detachment of France Commander "2016"

Fellow Sons of the American Legion,

Another year has passed with many great things being accomplished. We had our annual convention on the 6th of June 2015. We got some business done and held our elections for the 2016 membership year. I want to thank the membership for giving me the opportunity to serve as your Detachment Commander. It will be an honor to serve this Detachment for the next year. I would also like to thank the rest of the Detachment officers for stepping up and accepting positions. I believe that we have a team that can make this a great year. I do have a couple of things I would like to get out to you. We need to start getting heavy on membership. The only way to keep the Detachment a viable member of the Department and support the programs of the Sons of the American Legion is by keeping our numbers up and getting Squadrons to our DEC's and Convention. Our next DEC will be held in Kitzingen, at the post home of GR30. The DEC will be held on 10 October 2015. You all will receive the call with more information. I would like to see a great turn out for this DEC. We also will need a Squadron to host the 3rd DEC in March and then a Squadron to host the convention in June. Please think about the possibility of your Squadron hosting one of these events and come to the DEC in October so that planning can begin. I believe that long term planning will give the membership an ability to plan well into the future making it easier for more of the membership to attend. Again, I want to thank everyone for all that you do for the Sons of the American Legion, thank you for your support and hope to see everyone at the DEC on 10 October 2016 in Kitzingen.

Serving Proudly
Lee Preston
Lpreston1957@gmail.com

GENERAL INFORMATION...

Hopefully you don't have a reservation at Landstuhl the next few months.

For your info, RAO Staff: L470 Road Leading to LRMC Closed Until Mid-July. Access to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center (LRMC) will not be available for the next three months via the Hauptstuhl exit on Autobahn 62 (A62), or by taking the L470 (the uphill road that passes by the US Army Heliport) exit from L395 (the long straight road running from Kaiserslautern to Landstuhl to Hauptstuhl). Approximately 1,000 meters of the road closed May 5 for repaving and other improvements and is expected to open again in mid-July, according to German government road service officials.

To access LRMC from A62, take the US Hospital/Landstuhl-Atzel/Martinshoehe exit and follow the sign toward US Hospital/Martinshoehe. At the next next intersection, turn right at the sign for US Hospital and Gate 3. Almost immediately after you turn right, you will encounter a barrier in the right lane that says, "frei bis Heliport" which means the road is accessible to the Heliport. You are free to maneuver around the barrier, but look for oncoming traffic. Take your next right to Gate 3 which is on Dr. Hitzelberger Strasse that leads to the main entrance to LRMC.

From downtown Landstuhl on the main street (Kaiserstrasse), you can find LRMC by following the white signs for US. Hospital and other signs for Bann, Mittelbrunn and Burg Nanstein. The US Hospital signs will guide you toward signs for Gate 3. You will also encounter the barrier in the right lane going this route.

DOD Sends 'Blended' Military Retirement Proposal to Congress

On June 10, the Department of Defense (DOD) sent its proposal to Congress that would create what DOD officials called a "blended defined benefit and defined contribution" military retirement system. The proposal includes elements DOD believes are necessary to promote retention, to maintain the all-volunteer force, and to protect servicemembers who retire due to disability.

DOD said it reviewed proposals offered by the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission and recommendations suggested by Congress. DOD officials believe the proposal will give DOD the flexibility it needs to manage the force into the future while helping to ensure that 85 percent of servicemembers will start long-term retirement savings.

Proposal Highlights of Interest to the Legion include:

Creating a defined contribution element through the federal government's Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) for servicemembers;

Automatically contributing 1 percent of a servicemember's basic pay to the TSP account from entry into military service through separation or retirement with vesting after completion of two years of service and additional matching contributions of up to 5 percent of basic pay starting after completion of four years of service and continuing through separation or retirement; and

Each service having the ability to offer a bonus, called Continuation Pay, to servicemembers with eight to sixteen years of service, with each service setting its own rate of Continuation Pay.

DOD estimates that 85 percent of servicemembers who enter the force will receive some form of a portable retirement benefit. Future servicemembers, however, would receive only 80 percent of the current retired pay (sometimes called a 'pension') if they serve for 20 years.



National Commander's Visit

American Legion National Commander Michael Helm and American Legion Auxiliary President Janet Jefford visited Belgium from 03-05 June. During their visit they had the opportunity to visit the Luxemburg American Cemetery and Bastogne. During their visit to Bastogne, the group had the opportunity to visit the WWII War museum and speak with the Mayor of Bastogne – Lutgen Benoit.

On Thursday, the command group had a very busy schedule. The day started with a visit to NATO headquarters and a briefing by LTG Hoog, US Military Representative to NATO. The group next travelled to SHAPE and had a luncheon with members of the community and members of Post BE02. Later in the Afternoon, the Commander and President had the opportunity to be interviewed by SGT Patrick from AFB Benelux Radio.

Following the interview the command group travelled to Chièvres Airbase for a Townhall meeting with the local military community. After an hour of answering questions the command group finished the day by traveling back to Brussels to enjoy a meal at the 3-Star lounge with the members of the American Legion Post BE02 family.

On their final day in Belgium, The command group travelled to the Flanders Field American Cemetery to pay honors to our fallen heroes from WWI. On their way to France, the group stopped at Leper to tour the city.

American Legion BE02 Auxiliary

On Thursday evening, 04 June, The American Legion Auxiliary Post BE02 chapter received their official charter from American Legion National President Janet Jefford. Chapter President Ruth Alvarez led the effort during the past year to form the Auxiliary chapter here in Belgium. Her efforts and those of the other charter members were finally rewarded at the 3-Star Recreation in front of a group of American Legion members, family and the American Legion National Commander, Michael Helm.

AFNORTH JROTC

On Tuesday, 09 June, Commander Schram presented the ROTC Military Excellence Medal to the cadet corps from the AFNORTH Air Force JROTC in Brunssum, Netherlands. This was the first time that the American Legion has presented this award to the cadets from the AFNORTH International High School.

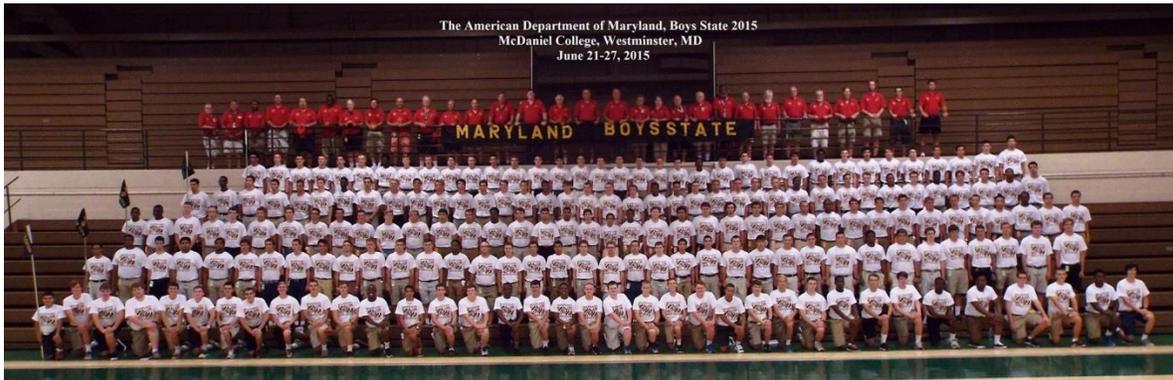
Legion Riders

On June 10th, the American Legion Riders embarked on a journey of EPIC proportion. This journey took us on the ride of a lifetime, through Germany, Austria, Switzerland, and France, before returning back to Belgium. Through this journey, we accomplished the following mountain passes (all rated within the top 100 rides of Europe): Stelvio Pass, Umbrail Pass, Ofen Pass, Fluela Pass, Oberalp Pass, Furka Pass, and Grimsel Pass. There were other mountain passes that we traveled on our journey, but ones named are the intended and most notable. Our Treasurer, Shawn Taylor, spent months planning this trip, and it was an incredible ride no one will forget!

Boys State / Girls State

Austin Murallie and Anna Sweet represented the American Legion Post BE02 at the annual Boys State and Girls State programs in Maryland. During the week, both of the candidates learned about state, city and local politics. The week emphasized hands-on approach to learning in which the groups elected city and state officials, introduced bills and debated the merits of their resolutions. Austin notified me that this “was the best week of my life!”





Adopter Appreciation Day
Saturday, 22 August 2015

Adopters, Family and Friends
Everyone Welcome
From 11:00 to 17:00
Park Stadionvijvers -
Zuiderlaan, Waregem

Program

11:00 Adopter Appreciation Ceremony at Flanders Field American Cemetery

12:00 American BBQ at Park Stadionvijvers - Waregem

- 15€ - Chicken or Ribs, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw

12:00 Activities in the Park Stadionvijvers, Zuiderlaan, Waregem

- Exhibitions—Adopter Village
- Demonstration by Venture Crew 511

Information:

RSVP American BBQ: adopt.a.grave.flandersfield@gmail.com

Exhibition 'Adopters Village': friends.of.ffwaregem@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE PAST COMMANDERS CLUB



Jimmie Dale
President "2016"

Who is eligible to join the Department of France Past Commanders Club?

PAST AND PRESENT Department Commanders, Department Vice Commanders At Large, Department Vice Commanders, Post Commanders, SAL Detachment Commanders, SAL Squadron Commanders, Auxiliary Department Presidents, Auxiliary Unit Presidents...*so if you were just voted into office you are eligible to join*

Initial dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$25.00 which will entitle the new member to a Past Commanders Club cap, Past Commanders Club pin and membership card

Renewal dues for the Past Commanders Club is only \$10.00

Our next meeting is will be during our Department Second DEC

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE... *David Greaux, PCC Secretary "2016"*

Post Everlasting



It is my sad duty to report to you that Comrade Robert Burdette, long time member of Dwight D. Eisenhower Post GR13 reported to Post Everlasting on June 22 2015. Comrade Burdette's funeral arrangements are unknown at this time. Once we are notified of the funeral arrangements, it will be posted under a separate E-Mail. Please keep Comrade Burdette's family in your thoughts and prayers during this trying time.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of Claudius Jackson of Thomas W. Barnett Post GR14.

Commodore John Barry Post IR03

On 2nd June, 2015 Post IR-03 participated in an unveiling ceremony by Richie Gormerly, Mayor of West Roxbury, Massachusetts of a bench honouring his late brother, Brigadier General William J. Gormerly III, former Commanding General of the Massachusetts National Guard at Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon. The Gormerly family have deep ancestral ties to the Lecarrow area. Gen. Gormerly died suddenly in Hawaii in 1963. The Mayor was accompanied by sixty four Americans from the Boston area. Also partaking in the ceremony were members of the Irish, 19th Infantry Battalion (FCA) Association as well of members of the Irish Organization of National ex-Servicemen and women (ONE). A folded American flag was presented to the General's widow and we laid a wreath on the bench. A trumpeter from the Irish Army band in Athlone sounded the Last Post (TAPS).





**THE AMERICAN LEGION - DEPARTMENT OF FRANCE
KAISERSLAUTERN POST #1
RHINE ORDNANCE BARRACKS
BLDG 368
APO AE 09227**



**Come Join THE AMERICAN LEGION for a round of Golf
at the Woodlawn Golf Course on Ramstein Air Base.**

When: 25 JULY 15 Check-in 0700, Shotgun start at 0800

Who: Open to Everyone. Must reserve entry with POC.

Why: Fun and Good Times – Fund raising for American Legion
Supported Events: USO WARRIOR CENTER, FISHER HOUSE, RED
CROSS, GIRLS STATE, BOYS STATE, STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS,
CEMETERY WREATHS, US FLAGS, and Veteran and Youth Support
Activities.

*Prizes include: Golf Accessories, Team rounds at other
courses, 50/50 before and after golf, and more...*

Come Join the Fun!!

Cost for Golf Club Members: \$60
Cost for Non-members: \$75

Prizes for : Oldest Golfer, closest
to the pin and longest drive and
more.

Who: Open to Everyone. Must
reserve entry with POC. Non-ID
Card Holders, too.

Items Provided:
• Team Mulligan bag: \$20.00
• Bucket of Balls and Lunch



POC: 1ST VICE CDR, DENNIS SARAZIN
CONTACT AT: dennis.sarazin@yahoo.com

THE KOREAN WAR NEVER ENDED...

The Korean War is a conflict between Communist and non-Communist forces in Korea from June 1950 to **July** 1953. At the end of WWII, when Japan collapsed, Korea had been divided into Soviet and American Zones. The war split the Korean Peninsula into two countries: the Democratic Republic of Korea (North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (South Korea).

The USSR and United States agreed to disarm Japan in halves, the Soviets taking the surrender north of the 38th parallel, the United States taking south of the 38th parallel. Later the USSR established a government in the North, while the USA established their own in the South. Eventually, the 38th parallel was extended through Korea to divide the country into the two separate sections that exist today, with the Communist government in control of North Korea and a Capitalist-democracy in control of South Korea.

There were over 33,000 Americans died in Korean, over 1 million Korean soldiers, 2 million civilians and hundreds of thousands of Chinese troops' lives were taken during the Korean War

SGT William D. Nelson Post GR09

GR 09 supports the American Legion

Ever since receiving its charter in May 2001 the William D. Nelson, Post GR 09 has consistently and faithfully supported the American Legion and the Department of France in many of its activities. Convention and DEC attendance has never been an issue and again this year the post sent its two delegates and one alternate to the 91st Convention and both DECs.

Since the beginning of this year GR 09 has conducted Post Everlasting ceremonies, attended funerals of Legion Members, visited graves of veterans on Memorial Day and in April organized and hosted the visit of a WW II Veteran with his return to Ulm that he and his unit liberated in April 1945.

Further evidence of this support was demonstrated during the 91st convention when Post GR 09 presented a check for \$500 for the American Legion's Legacy fund. Although the post has limited possibilities to generate funds it was decided that the Legacy fund was most deserving of the Post's support.



GR 09 Legionnaire George Franklin presenting check to Pony Express Chairman Ron Moore with Hal Rittenberg assisting.

JOHN WAYNE POST GR 79

**John Wayne Post GR 79 Is Hosting It's Independence Day Celebration
On Saturday 4th July 2015 at 1300 hrs**

Max's Garden, Im Bruch, 74081 Heilbronn-Klingenberg

**The menu consists of American Size Hamburgers, Hot Dogs, Chicken, Bake
Bean and Potato Salad**

A Flat Cost of 12 Euros per person If R.S.V.P NLT 25 June

A Flat Cost of 15 Euros Day of the Event

Children under 12 years of age FREE

rshephard3rd@gmail.com

07131-405-8892 or 0176-4722-7166

Commander GR79 Roy Martin

Adjutant GR79 Ross Shephard III

About OCW

As the war in Afghanistan winds down, U.S. military personnel are coming home where they join other recent veterans who served in Iraq. Many of these servicemembers have left the battlefield only to be faced with a new fight: a struggle to overcome the mental and physical wounds suffered during deployment. Those with traumatic brain injury (TBI) or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) are returning home in unprecedented numbers. In fact, the Army has said that up to 20 percent of the men and women who served in Afghanistan or Iraq have suffered TBI.



Even as the wars conclude, those in the military still face inherent dangers while fighting the global war on terrorism, during training exercises and while performing other dangerous duties.

While the care at many military hospitals and warrior transition units is extraordinary, The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program was created to provide "nonessentials" - items that help wounded warriors' recovery but don't usually show up as a budget line on government spreadsheets.

BALTIMORE MARYLAND

Site of the 97th American Legion National Convention

August 28th to September 3rd 2015



The Baltimore Hilton



The Inner Harbor

If you are planning on attending the National

Convention in Baltimore (and I hope to see some new faces in Baltimore) please e-mail me at dhaggan@sbcglobal.net with the following information, **THE DATE YOU WILL ARRIVE AND DEPART, THE PERSON YOU ARE SHARING A ROOM WITH IF ANY, AND ANY SPECIAL ROOM REQUIREMENTS.**

The room cost per night is \$159.00 plus tax. Cutoff for the reservation is 12 July 2015.
Hope to see you in Baltimore, a good time will be had by all.

Update on what we are working on for our attendees' enjoyment at the 2015 National Convention...

Friday, August 28, 2015 – Color Guard Competition at 5:00 PM at the Baltimore Convention Center. Applications are due by July 24 to the Convention & Meetings Office.

On Friday, August 28 OR Saturday, August 29, the Baltimore Ravens will host the Washington Redskins in a Pre-Season Game. We are working with the Ravens and more information on tickets will be forthcoming.

Saturday, August 29, 2015 – Competitive Concert Band Contests will return along with the new Exhibition Concert Band class. Contests will start at 1:00 PM at the Baltimore Convention Center. Applications are due by June 1 to the Convention & Meetings Office.

Sunday, August 30, 2015 – Patriotic Memorial Service featuring The Texas Tenors. Service starts at 11:00 AM in the Baltimore Convention Center.

Monday, August 31, 2015 – American Legion Family Night at Camden Yards Ballpark with the Baltimore Orioles vs. Tampa Bay Rays. Game time is 7:05PM. See the American Legion Baseball Player of the Year throw the ceremonial first pitch. Please see attached document for ticket information.

Tuesday, September 1, 2015 – National Commander's Banquet. The Swing Dolls have been selected by National Commander Helm as the entertainment. The Swing Dolls perform a Musical USO Tribute and music made popular by The Andrews Sisters, The McGuire Sisters, female groups of the 1960's and Mamma Mia. Tickets are \$45.00 per person and each table is a round for eight (8) people this year. Departments may send their checks to the Convention & Meetings Office, payable to National Treasurer of The American Legion. Tickets at this time are still available.

Tour Opportunities are available during the National Convention. These are listed on our website at www.legion.org/convention.



AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY NIGHT

Monday, August 31st at 7:05 p.m. vs. Tampa Bay Rays

Terrace Box (Sections 1-17 & 55-65): **\$19***

Left Field Lower Box (Sections 66-86): **\$19***

Lower Reserve (Sections 67-87): **\$12***

Upper Reserve (Sections 316-356, rows 13-25): **\$10***

*There is an additional 10% service charge per ticket.

For any questions or accessible seating, please call 888.848.BIRD (2473) and ask for the Ticket Services team.

FOLLOW THE STEPS BELOW TO PURCHASE TICKETS:



1. Click on the link below

2. Select a quantity of tickets

3. Create a Baltimore Orioles ticket account

4. Purchase and print your tickets



<http://www.orioles.com/tix/americanlegion>



Tickets posted for re-sale are subject to cancellation. Offer is NOT valid at the Box Office.

National Commander Helm's BLOOD DRIVE

97th NATIONAL CONVENTION OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION



American
Red Cross

Baltimore Convention Center

Halls D & E, Level 100

TWO DAYS ONLY

Friday, August 28, 2015

Monday, August 31, 2015

9:00AM – 2:30PM

The Story of the POW/MIA Flag

Marc Leepson



Newt Heisley, with the POW/MIA flag he designed. (Copyright Don Jones Photography)

Heisley planned to add color to the black-and-white image, but those ideas were dropped

You see it everywhere—the stark, black-and-white POW/MIA flag—flying in front of VA hospitals, post offices and other federal, state and local government buildings, businesses and homes. It flaps on motorcycles, cars and pickup trucks. The flag has become an icon of American culture, a representation of the nation’s concern for military service personnel missing and unaccounted for in overseas wars.

From the Revolution to the Korean War, thousands of U.S. soldiers, Marines, airmen and sailors have been taken prisoner or gone missing. But it took the Vietnam War—and a sense of abandonment felt by wives and family members of Americans held captive—to bring forth what has evolved into the nation’s POW/MIA symbol.

The POW/MIA flag is inextricably tied to the National League of POW/MIA Families, which was born in June 1969 as the National League of Families of American Prisoners in Southeast Asia. Its mission was to spread awareness of the mistreatment of POWs at the hands of their captors. It was the brainchild of Karen Butler, wife of Navy pilot Phillip Butler, who had been shot down over North Vietnam in April 1965, and Sybil Stockdale, whose husband, Navy Commander James Bond Stockdale, was the highest-ranking POW in North Vietnam. Stockdale had been held prisoner since September 1965, when his A-4 Skyhawk went down over North Vietnam.

In 1971, League member Mary Hoff came up with the idea of creating a flag as the group’s symbol. Her husband, Navy pilot Lt. Cmdr. Michael Hoff, had been missing since January 7, 1970. Mary Hoff called the country’s oldest and largest flag-maker, Annin Flagmakers of Verona, N.J.

“Mary Hoff called out of the blue. I had no idea what the League of Families was when she called,” Norm Rivkees, then Annin’s vice president of sales, said. “She then explained everything and I went to our president, Randy Beard. There was no hesitation. He just said: ‘Absolutely. We would be honored [to create a flag].’”

Rivkees turned over the job of designing the flag to Annin’s small advertising agency, Hayden Advertising, where the task was assigned to graphic artist Newton F. Heisley.

Heisley, who died in 2009, had served in World War II as a C-46 twin-engine transport pilot with the 433rd Troop Carrier Group. After coming home from the war with a Bronze Star, he received a degree in Fine Arts from Syracuse University and worked as a graphic artist at the *Pittsburgh Post Gazette* before going to work for Hayden.

After getting the POW/MIA flag assignment, Heisley sat down at his drawing table and sketched three different designs. The one he chose had an image of a gaunt man in profile, with a guard tower and a strand of barbed wire in the background—the design that we recognize today.

When Annin began producing the flag, Heisley was still tweaking its design. He planned to add color to the black-and-white image, but those ideas were dropped.

Heisley modeled the flag’s silhouette on his 24-year-old son, who was on leave from the Marines and looking gaunt while getting over hepatitis. Heisley also penned the words that are stitched on the banner, “You are not forgotten.”

As Heisley told the *Colorado Springs Gazette* in 1997, the flag “was intended for a small group. No one realized it was going to get national attention.”

It took nearly a decade, but the POW/MIA flag began getting attention in a big way in the early 1980s. In 1982 it became the only flag, other than the Stars and Stripes, to fly over the White House, after it was first displayed there on POW/MIA Recognition Day. In 1989 the flag was installed in the Capitol Rotunda.

It also has the distinction, historians and flag experts believe, of being the only non-national flag that any federal government anywhere in the world has mandated to be flown regularly. That began with a 1990 law to recognize the POW/MIA flag and designate the third Friday of September as National POW/MIA Recognition Day.

In 1998, Section 1082 of the Defense Authorization Act—codified as Title 36, Section 902 of the U.S. Code—mandated that the POW/MIA flag be flown over the Capitol, the White House, the Korean and Viet-nam Veterans Memorials, the offices of the secretaries of State, Defense and Veterans Affairs, of the Selective Service System, and on the grounds or in the lobbies of every major military installation, every post office and all VA Medical Centers and national cemeteries on six days: POW/MIA Recognition Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day.

Since then, some states have passed laws that also mandate flying the POW/MIA flag. Oregon, for example, requires that the POW/MIA flag be flown on or near the state capitol on the same holidays as the national law. In Washington, a 2002 law requires every state agency, every state institution of higher education, and every county, city and town to display the flag on the same six holidays. Florida requires the flag at state parks year round. Arizona enacted a law requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown over every town and city hall, Superior Court building and county office on the designated holidays. And in 2011, Idaho became the first state to require that the POW/MIA flag be flown over all state buildings, 24 hours a day, seven days a week “or until such time as all our unaccounted for and missing members of the Armed Forces return.”

Marc Leepson, arts editor and senior writer for The VVA Veteran, is the author of seven books, including Flag: An American Biography, a history of the American flag from its beginnings to the 21st century.

Published in June 2012 Vietnam magazine.